One specimen, a male, was collected.

I am thankful to Dr. B. Biswas of the Zoological Survey of India for kindly confirming the findings.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
INDIAN MUSEUM,
CALCUTTA 13,
April 15, 1963.

G. U. KURUP

[Sálim Ali in 'The Birds of Gujarat', *Journal* Vol. **52** : 747, gives the status of this species as: 'Winter visitor. Sporadic solos, or separated pairs, amongst groves of leafy trees near villages, and in wooded compounds, etc.'. We have with us an unpublished manuscript, dated October 1950 and received in the Society's office in the same month, by Y. S. Shivrajkumar wherein the species is recorded from Jasdan, Saurashtra, in winter.—EDS.]

8. ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRDS EATING THE FRUIT OF YELLOW OLEANDER (*THEVETIA NERIIFOLIA*)

Some time ago, I recorded in this *Journal* (**56** : 639) that Redvented Bulbuls (*Molpastes cafer*) and Whitebrowed Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) feed on the fleshy mesocarp of the fruit of the Yellow Oleander (*Thevetia neriifolia*). I referred therein to notes by other authors recording the same habit in the Koel (*Eudynamys scolopacea*), the Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), and the Common Grey Hornbill (*Tockus birostris*).

During the latter half of last year my wife and I observed Brahminy Mynas (*Sturnus pagodarum*) and Redwhiskered Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) in our compound eating this fruit. Brahminy Mynas are local migrants on this campus arriving by about September and departing by about March, whereas Redwhiskered Bulbuls are residents. Usually the Brahminy Mynas feed in company with the Common Mynas and Hoopoes in the grass lawns of this estate. Occasionally they take to eating this fruit, but always the over-ripe ones fallen on the ground. We have noted them sometimes eating the mesocarp of even the stale or the dark and dried fruit. When disturbed, they fly off but come back soon to resume eating, each bird thereby finishing almost a complete fruit.

We suspect the Crow-Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*) to have this habit but have seen only one instance of such feeding. We have only

one or two of these birds round about our house, so it may take time before we can definitely include the Crow-Pheasant in this list.

In all these present instances the unripe fruit full of latex on the plant is never touched.

Department of Zoology,
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April 15, 1963.

P. J. SANJEEVA RAJ

9. POINT CALIMERE AS A REFUGE FOR WINTERING SHORE BIRDS

(*With a text-figure*)

The Asian Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) whose headquarters are in Tokyo, Japan, has been fully alive to the need for a proper investigation of the movements of migratory wading birds (Charadriidae) in south and south-east Asia, and anxious to promote the establishment of refuges for them while on passage or wintering in these countries. The Section was recently allotted a small monetary grant by the World Wildlife Fund through the world body (ICBP) for the furtherance of this objective, a part of which it has passed on to the Indian National Section for appropriate utilization. Partly to prospect in this connection and partly in order to explore the possibilities of netting shore-birds for investigating their role, if any, in the dissemination of arthropod-borne viruses (cf. the BNHS/WHO Bird Migration Field Project), but chiefly at the invitation of the Government of Madras to assess the suitability of Point Calimere for their proposed shore-birds sanctuary, I visited the area from 10th to 16th November 1962.

Point Calimere (10° 18′ N.×79° 51′ E.) lies in the Tanjavur (Tanjore) District of Madras State, about 200 miles south of Madras City. The area is an extensive coastal belt of some 50,000 acres (or more ?) of tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and lagoons along the southern Bay of Bengal, and about 30 miles from the Jaffna Peninsula of Ceylon across Palk Strait. The stunted scrub jungle bordering the backwaters and mudflats consists of shrubs and moderate-sized trees of *Mimusops hexandra, Memecylon edule, Bassia latifolia, Carissa carandas, Eugenia jambolana,* and other species. Further inland from the edge, the scrub becomes denser and merges into